

DUNWOODY POLICE

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ON THE BEAT

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Christmas For Kids

Explorer Sgt. Kelly Harrison

On December 17th the Dunwoody Police Department held the first annual Christmas For Kids Party at North Peachtree Baptist Church. When the kids entered the church, the festive atmosphere consumed them and their faces lit up. First, dinner was served as elves danced around the room spreading Christmas cheer. Then, the children listened to Dr. Tony Romans, the senior pastor, as he explained the true meaning of Christmas. Next, Officer Fidel Espinoza, who was a key contributor to making the night a success, welcomed all of the children and had an amazing surprise to share. The excitement of the kids went through the roof when Officer Espinoza announced that Santa Clause himself was on his way. The children ran to the window to watch Santa's arrival. Santa walked through the door and immediately was greeted with many hugs. Each child sat in Santa's lap and received five presents. The joy and appreciation on both the children's and the parents' faces were clear to see.

Officer Espinoza sums up the night as "an absolute success", but this did not come easily. The night was a long time in the making. Over Officer Espinoza's 14 years of being a police officer he has never seen "such a supportive and appreciative community as Dunwoody". However, he realized that there are two distinct sides of Dunwoody: a wealthier side and a less privileged side. He wanted to bring all sides of Dunwoody together to help make everybody's Christmas special. So, Officer Espinoza had the idea of throwing this party both to help others, but also to get all of Dunwoody aware and involved. It was important to Officer Espinoza that this party not solely be an officer event. After all, one

of the Dunwoody Police mission statements is to engage the public to do good things for the entire community. So, a developed committee made up of police officers, civilians, city employees, and business owners was formed to help make the party a success. They reached out to the community by asking for help and support. Immediately hundreds of volunteers responded and helped in one way or another. Thanks to the great effort from so many generous people, over 100 children were able to attend the party. The children were hand picked by officers. Through coming into contact with the children and the community's guidance, officers were able to pick families that really needed help.

Thanks to the communities overwhelming desire to help, there are many presents left over. Of the remaining gifts, 300-500 will be donated to Scottish Rite Hospital and many other charities. Also, officers on duty Christmas Day will load up their patrol cars with presents in case they run into any children in need. The first ever Christmas For Kids party was an unbelievable event, which could not have happened without the community's effort. Officer Espinoza remarks, "I can't wait for next year. It will be even bigger and better".

Explorer Sgt. K. Harrison has been a member of the Explorer program since it's first meeting in July 2009. She is appointed as one of the first two Sergeants in the history of the Dunwoody Explorer program.



New Year's Resolutions

Officer W. Furman

New Year's Stats:

40%-45% of adults make resolutions for themselves

75% make it past the first week

46% make it past 6 months

Top resolutions:

1. Lose weight
2. Stick to a budget
3. Debt reduction
4. Quit smoking
5. Enjoy more time with family & friends.

The history of New Year's resolutions dates back to the early Babylonian times, when they would resolve to return farm equipment they had borrowed. More modern resolutions include: getting in shape, eating better, quitting smoking, etc. We have all made resolutions before, but how many have we really kept? I would like to offer you a few new resolutions to try for 2010.

#1. Don't be a victim. Begin to practice good personal safety. Always lock your car and take your keys with you, even in your driveway. Never leave valuables in your car. Always lock your house doors and windows.

#2. Increase your awareness. Awareness is a skill that must be practiced. The best way to exercise this is to turn it into a fun game. Each day, try to identify something in your environment that has changed. It may be something at your neighbor's house, the local store you go to, or something in your neighborhood. When you are in public, watch the people around you. Watch their mannerisms, how they walk, who they are looking at, how they are interacting with others. As you become familiar with what is normal behavior, you will be able to quickly identify what is abnormal. This will also help you become a great witness if you ever need to report a crime you witness.

#3. Burglar proof your home. Install deadbolts on all outside doors. Make sure if there is a window adjacent to the door, that you use a double cylinder lock which requires a key for the inside and outside. Check your exterior lighting and replace blown out bulbs. Install motion sensor lighting in

areas around basement doors or windows which could be easy targets. Keep the shrubbery around your windows and doors cut back so they can be seen from the street. Ensure the locks on your windows function correctly and repair/replace the ones that don't.

#4. Write down those serial numbers. Write down the serial numbers from your electronics such as T.V.'s, DVD players, cameras, camcorders, etc. Keep them in a secure location (the hard drive of your computer is not secure because the computer can be stolen also). For more information on this check out the September 09 issue of On The Beat.

#5. Photograph valuables. Jewelry does not have serial numbers to trace, so the easiest way to document them is with photographs. You can take digital photographs and keep them on the memory stick or cd that you have your serial numbers on. You can also take pictures of your home, inside and out, to assist on insurance claims in case of a fire or storm damage.

#6. Be prepared. Create an action plan with your family in case of various emergencies. If you have children, make sure they know how to get out of the house in case of a fire and where to meet when they get out. A 15 minute discussion could save the lives of you and your children in an emergency. Create an emergency kit in case you lose power and are isolated in your home. For more information on emergency preparedness check out the December 09 issue of On The Beat newsletter



Fireworks Laws

Officer W. Furman

Fireworks Stats:

In 2007 9800 fireworks related injuries were treated in U.S. hospital emergency rooms.

Highest injury rates were in children 5 to 9 years old and 10 to 14 years old.

In 2006, an estimated 32,600 reported fires were started by fireworks. These fires resulted in 6 civilian deaths, 70 civilian injuries and \$34 million in direct property damage.

In 2007, more than nine out of ten (92%) emergency room fireworks injuries involved fireworks that Federal regulations permit consumers to use.

New Year's is a popular time for firework displays. Since the Georgia laws on fireworks changed, many have been confused about what is legal and illegal. Here is what is legal in Georgia:

- **Sparklers up to 100 grams each; fountains (items that say 'Emits Showers of Sparks' up to 200 grams total for multiple tube items or 75 grams for each individual tube); snakes, glow worms, snappers, party poppers.**

Basically, the fireworks must stay on the ground. The fireworks that are specifically **prohibited** are:

- **Firecrackers, torpedoes, sky rockets, roman candles, bombs, and sparklers over 100 grams.**

Violation of the fireworks law can result in a fine of up to \$1000 and 6 months in jail.

If you chose to use the legal fireworks this year, please keep in mind some basic safety tips:

- **Never give fireworks to small children. Even the sparklers that are considered safe, burn at an extremely high temperature and can ignite clothing.**
- **Light only one firework at a time.**
- **Do not point or throw fireworks at other people.**
- **Never attempt to "fix" or re-ignite malfunctioning fireworks.**
- **Keep a bucket of water, or a garden hose, handy in case of a fire or mishap.**

Please remember to be safe and have a Happy New Year!

Explorers

Officer W. Furman

The Dunwoody Police Explorers were invited to the Dunwoody Rotary Club breakfast on December 4th. They were presented with a donation check from the money that was raised by the Rotary Club at the Dunwoody Fall Festival. The Explorers assisted Rotary members in serving BBQ for the day. The Explorers also presented Rotary President Larry Hart with a plaque to show their appreciation for the support they have received from the club.



The Explorers also assisted with the first D.P.D. Christmas for Kids held on December 17th. The Explorers helped sort and wrap presents and hand out present to the children at the event. The event helped over 100 kids have a great Christmas.



The Explorers would like to thank everyone in the community that has helped with the program this year. This program is about community involvement and would not be possible without the support of our citizens. We are excited about our program and 2010!